

**ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2012**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB1090**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday January 31, 2012  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Wallman  
**One Liner:** Provide for the awarding of grants and the distribution of information relating to the Summer Food Service Program by the State Department of Education

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 7 Senators Avery, Cornett, Council, Haar, Howard, Seiler, Sullivan  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:** 1 Senator Adams

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**Proponents:**  
Senator Norm Wallman  
Kate Bolz  
Celicia Espree  
Theresa Meyer

**Representing:**  
Introducer  
Nebraska Appleseed  
Self  
Self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**  
Jeremy Murphy  
Ericka Smrcka  
Caryn Kusleika

**Representing:**  
Nebraska Catholic Conference  
Food Bank for the Heartland  
Midwest Dairy Council

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Legislative Bill 1090 would provide for grants to be awarded by the State Department of Education in support the Summer Food Service Program of the United States Department of Agriculture.

An intent would be stated to strengthen Nebraska's participation in the Program as a state nutrition and health policy where it is needed to provide adequate nutrition for children. Rationale supporting the intent would state that "children are susceptible to hunger in the summertime, resulting in negative health effects".

To encourage participation and utilization of the Program, the Department would:

1. Provide information to school districts concerning benefits and availability; and
2. Award competitive grants of up to \$15,000 per site to service institutions.

Service institutions develop special summer or school vacation programs providing food service similar to food service made available to children during the school year under the school lunch program or the school breakfast program and include:

1. Public or private nonprofit school food authorities;
  2. Local, municipal, or county government;
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3. Public or private nonprofit higher education institution participating in the National Youth Sports Program; or
4. Residential public or private nonprofit summer camps.

Grants could be used for nonrecurring expenses incurred in initiating or expanding services under the Program, including, but not limited to:

1. Acquisition of equipment;
2. Salaries of staff;
3. Training of staff in new capacities;
4. Outreach efforts to publicize new or expanded services under the Program;
5. Minor alterations to accommodate new equipment;
6. Computer point-of-service systems for food service; and
7. Purchase of vehicles for transporting food to schools.

Funds could not be used for food, computers, except point-of-service systems, or capital outlay. The total amount of grants would be limited to \$140,000 per fiscal year.

In awarding grants, the Department shall give preference to:

1. Service institutions that currently participate in the Program;
2. Service institutions in school districts in which 50% or more of the students apply and qualify for free and reduced-price lunches; and
3. Service institutions in school districts in which health and education activities are emphasized.

Service institutions may apply for grants by:

1. Submitting a plan to the department to start or expand services under the Program;
2. Agreeing to operate the Program for a period of not less than 2 years; and
3. Assuring that the expenditure of funds from state and local resources for the maintenance of the school breakfast program or the Summer Food Service Program shall not be diminished as a result of the grants.

The Department would be required to collect data regarding the number of sites, service institutions, and children served. The Department would submit a report on the data to the Education Committee of the Legislature by December 1st each year.

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#### **Explanation of amendments:**

The Committee Amendments would modify and prioritize the preferences for the awarding of grants. The preferences would be as follows in priority order:

1. Service institutions located within the boundaries of school districts in which 50% or more of the students apply and qualify for free and reduced-price lunches or located within the boundaries of a census tract in which 50% or more of the children fall under the poverty threshold as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture;
2. Service institutions in which health and education activities are emphasized; and
3. Service institutions that currently participate in the Summer Food Service Program.

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Greg Adams, Chairperson